

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

In an encoding process, video data are represented as a bitstream of a quantized base layer and one or more enhancement layers, which capture the difference between a quantized base video picture and an original unquantized input video picture. Due to bandwidth constraints on a communication channel, it may be unfeasible to transmit all enhancement layers. During the encoding process, the enhancement layer data may be adjusted to give transmission priority to information in the enhancement layers that is visually important. Following transmission, the adjustment may be undone during the decoding process.

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